

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Claims 25-51 are now present in this application. Claims 25, 38, and 43 are independent. By this amendment, claims 1-24 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 25-51 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicant thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicant thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 14, 2005, and for providing Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Drawings

Since no objection has been received, Applicant assumes that the drawings are acceptable and that no further action is necessary. Confirmation thereof in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis or is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 1-24 and provided new claims 25-51. Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims particularly point out and

distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kauranen; claims 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Umezu; and claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauranen in view of Umezu. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-24 have been canceled, thus rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 25-51

Claims 25-51 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent claim 25 recites a combination of elements in a door opening and closing system in an electric oven, the system including at least one latch provided at one side of a door, a door interlocking structure, and a door locking structure. The door interlocking structure includes a switch and "a rotary lever being rotated by the at least one latch at a first side of the rotary lever when the door is moved from an open position to a closed position, the rotary lever having a first engagement portion and a second engagement portion at a second side of the rotary lever opposite the first side, the first engagement portion and second engagement portion coming in contact in seriatim with the switch unit as the rotary lever is rotated to indicate when the door is in the open position, an intermediate position between the open position and the closed position, and the closed position." The door locking structure includes a motor having a rotary shaft, a rotary unit, and a latch guide. The rotary shaft is rotated by the motor when the door interlocking structure indicates that the door is closed, the rotary unit is rotated by the rotary

shaft of the motor, and the latch guide cooperates with the rotary unit to change a rotation motion of the rotary unit into a straight-line motion of the latch guide such that the latch guide contacts the at least one latch to prevent opening of the door.

Independent claim 38 recites a combination of elements in a door opening and closing system in an electric oven, the system including at least one latch provided at one side of a door, a first door opening and closing structure, and a second door opening and closing structure. The first door opening and closing structure includes a motor having a rotary shaft, a rotary unit, and a latch guide. The rotary shaft is rotated by the motor in a first direction when the at least one latch is inserted, and is rotated by the motor in a second direction opposite the first direction when the at least one latch is removed, the rotary unit being rotated by the rotary shaft of the motor to rotate through a predetermined angle, and the latch guide having one end connected to the rotary unit and the other end being latchable by the at least one latch when the at least one latch is inserted such that the latch guide contacts the at least one latch to prevent an opening of the door. The second door opening and closing structure is provided at a position adjacent to the at least one latch to indicate an opening and closing state of the door by contact of the at least one latch with the second door opening and closing structure.

Independent claim 43 recites a combination of elements in a door opening and closing system in an electric oven, the system including at least one protrusion protruded from one surface of a door, a first door opening and closing structure, and a second door opening and closing structure. The second door opening structure includes a switch unit and “a rotary lever being rotated by the at least one protrusion at a first side of the rotary lever when the door is moved from an open position to a closed position, the rotary lever having a first engagement portion and a second engagement portion at a second side of the rotary lever opposite the first side, the first engagement portion and second engagement portion coming in contact in seriatim with the switch unit as the rotary lever is rotated to indicate when the door is in the open position, an intermediate position between the open position and the closed position, and the closed position.” The first door opening and closing structure maintains the door in a locking state after the second door opening and closing structure indicates that the door is in the closed position.

Applicant respectfully submits that these combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 25, 38, and 43 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

In particular, with reference to Umezu, the rotary lever 73 of Umezu does not have a second end having a first engagement portion and a second engagement portion, where the first engagement portion and second engagement portion contact in seriatim with a switch unit. Rather, Umezu discloses an adjustable screw 78 that presses a push button 79b of micro-switch 79. Therefore, Umezu does not show or describe the claimed door interlocking structure of claim 25 and the second door opening and closing structure of claim 43.

Kauranen has not been relied for overcoming this deficiency of Umezu. Therefore, the hypothetical combination of Kauranen and Umezu would fail to show or describe all features of independent claim 25 and 43.

Furthermore, with reference to Kauranen, the control rod 66 of Kauranen does not contact the keeper pin 64 carried by bracket 65 on the door assembly 14. Rather, the control rod 66 causes latch 61 to pivot about shaft 62 carried by bracket 63 fixed to a cabinet assembly 11. In this manner, keeper pin 64 is held by a rotational movement of the latch 61. See col. 3, lines 31-41. This rotational movement cannot be the “straight-line motion of the latch guide such that the latch guide contacts the at least one latch to prevent opening of the door” of claim 25.

In addition, because the control rod 66, which is connected between the latch 61 and the eccentric 67, does not contact the keeper pin 64 carried by bracket 65, the control rod 66 does not show or describe “the latch guide having one end connected to the rotary unit and the other end being latchable by the at least one latch when the at least one latch is inserted such that the latch guide contacts the at least one latch to prevent an opening of the door” as recited in independent claim 38.

Umezu has not been cited to overcome the deficiencies above regarding Kauranen. Therefore, the hypothetical combination of Kauranen and Umezu would fail to show or describe all features of independent claim 25 and 38.

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 25, 38, and 43 are allowable over the cited prior art references.

With regard to dependent claims 26-37, 39-42, and 44-51, Applicant submits that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 25, 38, or 43, which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore these claims are also allowable based on their dependence from claim 25, 38, or 43, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter.

Consideration and allowance of claims 25-51 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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